

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 8, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 3024**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Wolk**

February 24, 2006

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An act to add and repeal Section 12242.5 of the Elections Code, relating to vote centers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 3024, as amended, Wolk. Vote centers: Solano County.

Existing law authorizes election officials to designate polling places in each precinct and to use satellite locations for any voter using an absentee ballot, prior to the close of the polls on election day, to vote the ballot at the satellite location in addition to the office of the elections official.

This bill would, until January 1, 2010, authorize ~~a pilot program~~ *the Board of Supervisors of Solano County* to establish, *by resolution*, vote centers in lieu of polling places in each precinct in Solano County for nonfederal and nonstate elections held after January 1, 2009, and would require that each vote center meet specified conditions. *The bill would also require, if the board of supervisors authorizes the vote centers, that one or more public hearing be conducted on the proposed vote centers, as specified.*

The bill would require the County of Solano, if the county establishes vote centers for one or more elections, to make a specified

report to the Legislature and the Secretary of State by no later than January 1, 2010.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 12242.5 is added to the Elections Code,  
2 to read:

3 12242.5. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
4 the Board of Supervisors of Solano County may, by resolution,  
5 ~~instruct the county elections official to~~ establish vote centers in  
6 lieu of polling places in each precinct.

7 (2) *If the board of supervisors adopts a resolution to establish*  
8 *vote centers pursuant to paragraph (1), the board shall, at a*  
9 *regularly scheduled meeting, conduct one or more public*  
10 *hearings on the proposed vote centers pursuant to the Ralph M.*  
11 *Brown Act (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of*  
12 *Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code) and the agenda*  
13 *shall include, but not be limited to, a discussion of all of the*  
14 *following:*

15 (A) *The area of networking and security concerns relative to a*  
16 *secure electronic connection to the county's voter registration*  
17 *system.*

18 (B) *The type of voting systems that are available.*

19 (C) *State and federal accessibility requirements for persons*  
20 *with disabilities.*

21 (3) *The county elections official shall be present at all public*  
22 *hearings and available to consult with the chairpersons of the*  
23 *county central committees of the political parties and any*  
24 *interested community groups, including groups that advocate for*  
25 *persons with disabilities.*

26 (4) *At the final public hearing held pursuant to paragraph (2),*  
27 *the board shall vote to adopt the voting system that will be used.*

28 (b) If vote centers are used in an election, each vote center  
29 shall have a secure electronic connection to the county's voter  
30 registration system to provide voting information to, and receive  
31 voting information from, the computerized registration list  
32 maintained by the county elections official. The county may not  
33 use vote centers in an election unless the Secretary of State has

1 certified that the secure electronic connection is sufficient to  
2 prevent any elector from voting more than once and to prevent  
3 unauthorized access to the computerized registration list.

4 (c) Vote centers in the county shall be established at the ratio  
5 of one vote center for each 5,000 registered voters.

6 (d) The number, location, and manner of operation of the vote  
7 centers, including providing for poll watching activities, shall be  
8 determined by the county elections official in consultation with  
9 the chairpersons of the county central committees of the political  
10 parties and any interested community groups, including groups  
11 that advocate for persons with disabilities.

12 (e) Each vote center shall meet all the requirements of federal  
13 and state law applicable to polling places, including accessibility  
14 requirements for persons with disabilities.

15 (f) As used in this section, “vote center” means a location at  
16 which any registered voter in the county holding the election may  
17 vote, regardless of the precinct in which the voter resides.

18 ~~(g) If vote centers are used in an election, the county elections~~  
19 ~~official shall use a direct recording electronic voting system, as~~  
20 ~~defined in subdivision (b) of Section 19251, in which a vote may~~  
21 ~~be cast on any of the ballot types used in the county for that~~  
22 ~~election.~~

23 ~~(h)~~  
24 (g) To the extent possible, the county elections official shall  
25 ensure that vote centers are geographically distributed throughout  
26 the political subdivisions in which the election is being held. The  
27 county elections official shall consider the availability of parking  
28 when establishing the locations of vote centers.

29 ~~(i)~~  
30 (h) At any election at which vote centers are used, the county  
31 elections official shall allow voters to vote prior to election day at  
32 some or all of the vote centers.

33 ~~(j)~~  
34 (i) This section shall apply only to nonstate and nonfederal  
35 elections held after January 1, 2009, in the County of Solano. If  
36 the county establishes vote centers for one or more elections, the  
37 county, by no later than January 1, 2010, shall provide a report to  
38 the Legislature and the Secretary of State on the use of vote  
39 centers describing the procedures used and addressing issues  
40 including, but not limited to, security, cost, and voter turnout.

1 The report shall also discuss any feedback received by the county  
2 from voters about the use of vote centers.

3 ~~(k)~~

4 (j) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1,  
5 2010, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted  
6 statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends  
7 that date.

8 SEC. 2. Due to the unique circumstances concerning voting  
9 in Solano County, the Legislature finds and declares that a  
10 general statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of  
11 Section 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution.  
12 Therefore, this act is necessarily applicable only to Solano  
13 County.